International Studies Council
Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2023
ZOOM Hybrid

Chair: Bogdan Prokopovych **Recorder:** Kimberly Stender

Participants: Madalina Akli (CHC), Ann Becker (Nursing), Irene Dujovne (CNS), Mark Eckman (IPO), Julia Feldhaus (HFA), Cai Fischietto (Libraries) Stephen Forrest (HFA), Justin Gross (SBS), Jaikai Lu (CNS), Melina Masterson (HFA), Marjorie Melnick (HFA), Bjorn Nordtveit (COEd), Simon Oswald (HFA), Anthony Paik (Faculty Senate), Elsa Petit (CNS), Daniel Pope (HFA), Ken Reade (IPO), Anisha Shonda (SGA), Kalpen Trivedi (IPO), Jackie Urla (Graduate School), Janna White (Five College Center for Study of World Languages)

Sent Regrets: Irena Bozin (UWW), Richard Chu (HFA), Krishna Poudel (SPHHS), David Rodriguez-Solas (HFA), Laura Vandenberg (ORE), Tobias Baskin (CNS)

Resigned: Qian Yang Chen

Guests: Andrea Drake (IPO), Sam Train (SGA)

1. **Approve Minutes from May 1, 2023**
   Steve moved to approve the minutes and Ann seconded. The motion passed with 6 abstentions.

2. **International Travel Registry Update**
   Andrea Drake, Director of International Health, Safety, and Security, explained the nuances of Project Fastlane, the UM system's new travel registry, travel information, and reimbursement platform. Approved by the Controller's Office and the TARMAC committee, the new registry is meant to enhance familiar features while providing the best resource for travel approvals, in-country information, high risk destinations, and the ability to upload travel receipts for reimbursement to Concur (the expense component of the Project Fastlane platform. Andrea will continue to provide pre-departure briefings and meet with graduate students and faculty.

3. **IPO Update**
   Kalpen reported that the new international student orientation and the Education Abroad Fair were extremely successful with approximately 1,000 participants at each. Ken added that this international cohort is the largest in history with 1,400 students (40% UG and 60% Graduate) with international students comprising 40% at the Graduate School. According to Ken, India sent the most students followed at a distance by China with South Korea, Turkey, and Iran rounding out the Top 5. Ken reported that overseas consulates are now operating at pre-pandemic staffing levels so visa processes are much more efficient and faster. However, African countries are still experiencing delays and deferrals. He added that there is a low instance of visa denials for UMA students. Ken finished by saying that STEM scholar numbers have plateaued (there are currently less than 200 on campus) due to the significant drop-off of Chinese students created by the Trump proclamation and continued by the Biden administration. Mark reported record numbers of students who are currently studying abroad as well as and applying for programs for Winter, Spring, and Fall 2024 programs. He added that the second cohort of the London First Year Program has 28 students (an increase from 2022) and a similar program in Madrid is being developed for STEM students. Mark finished by saying that Faculty Taught Programs may be limited in the future and he will continue to keep ISC apprised on this, and confirmed that will be a FTP in Cyprus this January.

4. **COPE Update**
   Steve reported that new programs will be reviewed in the weeks ahead. Since there are no exchange programs at this point, a vote from ISC and the Faculty Senate are not required. Marjorie Melnick offered to serve on COPE.

5. **ERG-International Faculty/Staff Update**
   No report.

6. **Ad Hoc Language Proficiency Committee**
   No report.

7. **Adjourn**
   Bogdan adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.